



Network for a Healthy California
NETWORK STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee of the *Network for a Healthy California* (Network Steering Committee or NSC) was established by the Cancer Prevention and Nutrition Section (CPNS) of the California Department of Health Services to support the effective, well-organized delivery of Food Stamp Nutrition Education (FSNE). The NSC, formerly the Joint Steering Committee, was renamed to correspond with the *Network's* new brand identity. The purpose of the NSC, as recommended by the United States Department of Agriculture, is to provide necessary ongoing support, program coordination and collaboration, and best practice sharing for FSNE-funded projects throughout the state. In addition, the NSC works to create and strengthen partnerships that underpin a crosscutting integrated approach to confront the epidemic of obesity and chronic disease caused by poor diet and physical inactivity for food stamp eligible individuals. NSC members reflect diverse partnerships, including representatives from the *Regional Networks* and Collaboratives, school districts, county health departments, faith-based organizations, agriculture and the retail food industry, community organizations, researchers, and state and federal agencies. The NSC is part of the larger Partnership Development Infrastructure that also comprises the NSC Subcommittees and eleven Regional Collaboratives.

NSC Subcommittee (Action Team) Teleconferences:

Between NSC meetings, the NSC Action Teams bring together members of the NSC by teleconference to coordinate FSNE activities across the state, encourage collaboration between programs, and recommend program measures that would advance the healthy eating and physical activity goals of FSNE. The Action Teams focus on specific issues relevant to the delivery of nutrition education for food stamp eligible populations. These may include children and youth, adults, healthy communities, fruits and vegetable consumption, health disparities, nutrition assistance promotion, and integration of physical activity into FSNE programs.

By strategically connecting the activities of the funded programs with community organizations, and with state and federal partners, the NSC and its Subcommittees can provide leadership, advice, and support for influencing and promoting improved nutrition and increased physical activity of food stamp eligible Californians. In addition, both the NSC and its Subcommittees present an excellent opportunity to strengthen the linkages and coordination with the eleven Regional Collaboratives.



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Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the NSC is to bring together FSNE local programs, *Regional Networks* and Regional Collaboratives, researchers, state and federal agencies, community based organizations and other partners to actively promote the goals of the *Network* by:

- Coordinating FSNE activities across the state;
- Helping shape the identity of the *Network*;
- Facilitating decision-making and cohesiveness;
- Inspire and improve communication and sharing;
- Providing leadership development;
- Providing mutual support through cross-disciplinary knowledge and skill building.
- Encouraging cross-pollination and collaboration between funded-programs and external stakeholders; and
- Recommending program measures and priorities that advance the healthy eating and physical activity goals of FSNE.